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Letter dated 17 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 June 2013, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 17 May 2013, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2013/300), which contains unfounded claims of "infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships", and to bring to your kind attention the following.

In response to such pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full consent and knowledge of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot Administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. It must be stated that assertions of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are unfounded, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. Similarly, the claim raised in the said letter in relation to Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, as the Greek Cypriot Administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another attempt aimed at distorting the facts and the realities of the island.

As noted in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot Administration extends over the whole island, including the territory and national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal Administration are futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed be conducive to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people.

Moreover, the Greek Cypriot Administration should also be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to reiterate, once again, the readiness of the Turkish Cypriot side for the earliest commencement of the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders within the context of a results-oriented

process. It is our considered view that there can be no excuse to further delay the negotiations. We hope that the Greek Cypriot leadership will heed our call for the earliest start of the comprehensive settlement negotiations and pave the way for a fair and durable settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus